

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING FOR OPTIMAL QOS IN A BROADBAND ACCESS SYSTEM, filed January 26, 2000, Application Serial No. 60/178,030; this application is related to the co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application entitled GRAPHICAL INTERFACE FOR MANAGEMENT OF A BROADBAND ACCESS NETWORK, filed January 26, 2001, Application Serial [[No. _____]] No. 09/771,017; the entirety of both applications are herein incorporated by reference.